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Monday 9th November 2026

Dear Charley,

New pornography offences now in force in England and Wales

On Friday 6th November 2026, new offences under the Crime and Policing Act 2026 came into force. It is now a criminal offence in England and Wales to possess or publish pornographic images that realistically show strangulation or suffocation, sex between people presented as close relatives, or sexual activity involving someone who is, or is pretending to be, under 16. The government says the aim is to tackle material that normalises harmful or illegal behaviour.

The maximum penalty is two or three years for possession, depending on the offence, and five years for publication. 'Publish' includes sending or sharing an image. Possession can mean anything stored on a device or in a cloud account.

See: Ministry of Justice: Crime and Policing Act 2026, offences relating to pornography (MoJ)

Conference:
Embedded Whole-School Therapeutic Model: From Research to Practice (Dr Catherine Hall EdD, Cantab.)

Monday 7th December 2026 | Birmingham

Dr Catherine Hall is a person-centred child psychotherapist with an integrative, child-led approach. Catherine is passionate about creating emotionally supportive, therapeutic school communities where children and the adults around them can thrive.

Drawing on her doctoral research, Catherine developed the Hall Embedded Whole-School Therapeutic Model, which brings together child therapy,

therapeutic supervision for staff and ongoing work with school leaders. At its heart is the belief that supporting children means supporting the whole school community, embedding therapeutic understanding, trusted relationships and reflective practice into everyday school life.

The conference will explore how we can move beyond a model in which a therapist works with an individual child and then leaves the school. Instead, Catherine and her guests will present a genuinely embedded whole-school service that brings together:

- Direct therapy for children
- Therapeutic supervision for school staff
- Support for staff wellbeing and reflective practice
- The Therapeutic Supervision Triangle developed through my doctoral research
- A relational approach that becomes part of the everyday culture of the school

The model recognises that supporting a child also means supporting the adults and wider systems surrounding that child. It places pupil wellbeing, staff wellbeing and therapeutic provision within one connected whole-school approach.

The conference will also include:

Catherine Fraser Andrews, who will share her work and vision for developing emotionally supportive and therapeutic school communities.

Mark Fish, Deputy Head of the secondary school involved in the research, who will share his first-hand experience of the model and its impact within the school.

Find out more and book your place: www.drcatherinehall.co.uk/conference

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Empowering Parents in a Digital World:
A free webinar and toolkit for schools and community settings, (LGfL)

Wednesday, 9th December 2026

LGfL has released a free Parent Online Safety Toolkit to help schools start safeguarding conversations with parents and carers. It covers generative AI, social media and gaming, and includes a ready-made presentation that staff can deliver to parents. It is free to schools and community settings.

To help settings get the most from it, LGfL is running a free webinar for DSLs and online safety leads on Wednesday 9 December at 3.45pm. It will cover how to personalise a parent event, activities to lead discussions, and resources on emerging risks, screen time, safety settings and wellbeing. SLT, governors and anyone with online safety responsibility are also welcome.

Download the toolkit: parentonlinesafety.lgfl.net

Book the webinar: lgfl.bookinglive.com

Estate compliance: site assets and records in one place (CalmCompliance)

CalmCompliance is the one place schools use for estate checks, planned maintenance, condition surveys, contract management, incidents, risk assessments and policies, with records Ofsted and the DfE can follow. Asset registers sit against buildings and rooms. Staff acknowledge risks and policies in the same system, so DSLs, estate managers and senior leaders finally see what has been checked, who signed it off, and what is overdue.

QR codes put policies and forms in visitors' and staff's hands in seconds. Trusts get the same live view across every site for support and oversight.

Schools use it to hit SEMS level 3. A growing library of templates ships with it, so teams get moving fast. You can try a demo at any time. Our current end-of-year offer includes three months free.

Read more at www.calmcompliance.com

Find Specialist Support (TACaccess)

TACaccess has expanded its UK-wide network to include Educational Psychologists and Clinical Psychologists, alongside counsellors and psychotherapists.

All professionals have undergone criminal record checks, helping schools and organisations connect with appropriately vetted specialists to support children, young people and adults.

Find out more and register your interest here: www.tacaccess.com

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Question of the Week

Question

Pupil S is in Year 9. For a few weeks, boys in his year group have been sharing offensive memes about his faith in a group chat and occasionally in the corridor. A teacher overhears one comment and logs it. The boy responsible gets a lunchtime detention and apologises. When asked about it, S tells his form tutor, 'Don’t worry about it. It happens all the time. Please don’t make it a thing.'

Nothing goes on the safeguarding system, because the matter has been dealt with under the behaviour policy.

Two weeks later, S’s attendance has dipped. He has stopped going to football club and is quieter in lessons. The boy who was sanctioned tells a teacher, 'Everyone shares stuff like that. Why am I the one in trouble?'

Is this a behaviour matter, a safeguarding matter, or both? Who is asking how S is doing, and where is it recorded?

KCSIE 2026 (paragraphs 17 and 32) says racism, faith-based prejudice and other forms of discrimination can affect a child’s welfare, mental health, sense of safety and willingness to seek help, and should be considered within safeguarding practice where appropriate.

Think of the last time a pupil in your school was targeted because of their race or faith. Where was it recorded, and did anyone ask how that child was affected?

Answer

- It is both a behaviour matter and a safeguarding matter.
- The sanction dealt with the behaviour, but not its effect on S.
- The dip in attendance, dropping football and being quieter suggest his wellbeing and sense of safety may be affected, whatever he says.
- The form tutor should pass it to the DSL, and a trusted adult should ask S how he is.
- It should be recorded in his safeguarding record as well as on the behaviour log.
- The boy who was sanctioned maybe a safeguarding concern too: where has this come from, and what support does he need
- With several boys involved, it may point to a wider culture issue.

Available Courses

Advanced Safeguarding for Designated Safeguarding Leads (Live / On-demand)

"I just wanted to say that I thought today's training was absolutely fantastic. By a mile it was the most engaging training I have done."

Next live online Advanced Safeguarding Course is on Tuesday 24th November 2026:

Book Online

The on-demand version is available year-round and is regularly updated Book Online

To book, go to:
safeguardinginschools.co.uk/dslcourse

Safeguarding for Governors and Trustees (On-demand) £59 + VAT per person

"This 2 hour session flew by, Andrew. Really great session. You're a great speaker. Thank you for informing us of such an important topic."

A useful, downloadable reference guide is included.

Note that this course is included for members of Safeguarding Pro

To book, go to: safeguardinginschools.co.uk/governors

Until next time, keep safe,

Andrew Hall
Specialist Safeguarding Consultant

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